

The Asia Foundation
Combating Trafficking of Women and Children
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PROGRESS REPORT
July - September 2003

Summary of Program Activities in Current Reporting Period:

- **District based prevention**
- **Safe migration initiatives**
- **Task force activities**
- **Networking activities**
- **New publications**
- **Film script**
- **Monitoring**
- **Issues and challenges**

District-based prevention

In July, ABC Nepal conducted street plays on trafficking in the Bhojpuri dialect, a local language spoken commonly in areas bordering India. The plays were conducted in coordination with the Village Task Forces in five VDCs of Nawalparasi. ABC also conducted a four-day training workshop on conceptual clarity for former elected representatives and potential women leaders in Banke in August.

CeLRRd conducted three orientation programs for a total of 75 transport workers in Nawalparasi, Banke, and Chitwan districts in the reporting period. Teachers trained earlier under anti-trafficking prevention activities conducted advocacy classes reaching 3,967 students.

Maiti Nepal conducted three training workshops for adolescent girls and women in July, August, and September. They also conducted transport workers and student teachers' training in Banke in August.

The NGO Federation of Nepal conducted four three-day rights-based training workshops in Dhading in June, reaching approximately 120 adolescent girls and women. As part of their prevention package, wall paintings were placed at six locations, and notice boards with messages on anti-trafficking and safe migration were placed along main highways. In Kavre, the NGO Federation conducted an anti-trafficking street drama with reached around 1,000 persons.

In July, WOREC conducted rights-based advocacy training in Kathmandu for 19 senior level staff belonging to five partner NGOs.

Safe migration initiatives

The NGO Federation organized training for employment agencies in Dhading. This is part of their initiative to coordinate and reach a maximum number of potential migrants by linking them with the Federation's counseling booths. In Kavre District, the NGO Federation counseling booth housed in its district office reached 14

migrants. In Makwanpur District, the NGO Federation established a counseling booth at the district administration office in August, and has been regularly providing orientation to those who come there to obtain passports. In addition, the NGO Federation's local chapter conducted a safe migration orientation workshop for two VDC task forces of Makwanpur.

WOREC is coordinating with the Ministry of Labor to develop an information package for migrant workers. It has been an important stakeholder in advocating for legal reforms regarding foreign employment and the introduction of a pre-departure orientation package. WOREC developed two posters and a sticker on safe migration during the reporting period. It conducted two regional workshops on "Safe Migration: Challenges and Our Role" in July and August, which included 112 stakeholders from government and NGOs. The Central regional workshop was held in Dhanusha, while the Western regional workshop was held in Butwal.

Task Force activities

ABC Nepal conducted a one-day workshop for District Task Forces in July, and a series of workshops for VDC task forces. It also granted seed money to ten VDC task forces in Nawalparasi in the presence of the Local Development Officer (LDO), who is presently chair of the District Task Force. All of the VDC task forces regularly conduct monthly meetings with technical assistance from ABC Nepal, and many have formed ward-level units to coordinate on anti-trafficking and other women's issues.

CeLRRd completed its third consultative meeting with 20 VDC task forces to facilitate development of their action plans for trafficking prevention. VDC task forces identified vulnerable populations in order to target their programs at the most needy. The task forces conducted day-long anti-trafficking advocacy programs in these areas with CeLRRd's facilitation.

Maiti Nepal facilitates regular meetings of the task force in Banke and coordinates with the vigilance group formed to assist them. The vigilance group consists of adolescent girls, women, students, and teachers trained through Maiti Nepal, along with key stakeholders in the community.

The NGO Federation of Nepal conducted nine one-day orientation sessions for VDC Task forces in Dhading, Chitwan, Nawalparasi, and Dhanusha. Conducted in coordination with local chapters, the sessions reached more than 200 persons. In Kavre, the NGO Federation successfully formed and provided orientation for seven VDC task forces and three municipality members on conceptual issues of trafficking in seven, three-day strategic planning workshops.

WOREC conducted two coordination meetings with eight VDC task forces in August and September. It provided facilitation for the District Task Force to conduct a one-day orientation session for 101 VDC secretaries in Dhanusha.

Rehabilitation and reintegration

The research study on reintegrated survivors and their coping strategies has been completed and the report is in draft stage. It will be available during the next reporting period.

Networking activities

The NGO Federation conducted a three-day rights-based conceptual clarity training workshop for network members. An anti-trafficking network was formed in Makwanpur as a result. CeLRRd conducted four training sessions for local NGOs and CBOs, reaching 100 members.

Publications

The NGO Federation and WOREC developed youth resource guides on anti-trafficking, safe migration, and employment opportunities for youth both within and outside of Nepal (copies attached).

Film script

ASMITA developed a final script for preparing a short anti-trafficking movie clip to be shown in cinema halls throughout Nepal. The script was approved following inputs from the Steering Committee in a meeting on September 2nd.

Monitoring

The Program Officer visited the WOREC office in Dhanusha on July 27th and viewed a street drama conducted by ABC Nepal in Nawalparasi on July 28th. On August 24-25, the Program Officer and USAID CTO traveled to Butwal to attend a Western regional workshop on safe migration. They also made a brief visit to ABC Nepal's Nawalparasi office to meet staff, and paid courtesy visits to the LDO, WDO, and women's police cell while there. The Program Officer also met with staff of CeLRRd's Makwanpur office on September 29th.

In addition to regular communication and individual interactions with partners, the Foundation hosted a Steering Committee meeting to discuss progress and constraints.

Issues and challenges

Most program districts are now affected by the Maoist insurgency. While Dhading, Kavre, and Makwanpur were previously considered high risk, lately Dhanusha, Chitwan, and Banke are also affected. Although partner NGOs have been able to cope with the situation, adjustments in program activities have been required. VDC-level activities are often shifted to safe locations near the district headquarters. Advocacy initiatives have been constrained by bans on rallies and mass gatherings, and by curfews.